

What is claimed is:

1. A machine for encasing sausages, comprising:
a vertically disposed stuffing tube having a lower discharge
5 end, means for moving the tube upwardly and downwardly,
the lower end of the stuffing tube extending into a twister
mechanism,
a linker disposed below the twister mechanism,
a conical shaped restricting device rotatably surrounding a
10 lower portion of the tube with a lower diameter of the
restricting device being slightly greater than the
outside diameter of the tube, and
a shirred casing around the tube and terminating in the
lower end of the restricting device so that gravity
15 feeds the casings from the restricting device before
entering the twister so that the restricting device
reduces any bunching of the casing.
2. The machine of claim 1 wherein means are provided for
20 spraying a fluid into the restricting device to facilitate
the passing of the casing therethrough.
3. The method of encasing sausages steps comprising:
feeding emulsion into a vertically disposed stuffing tube;
25 advancing the emulsion into a shirred casing that is around
the stuffing tube and terminates in the lower end of a
conical shaped restricting device having a lower
diameter greater than the outside diameter of the tube;
and
30 advancing the casing through the restricting device and into
a twister mechanism using gravity so that the
restricting device reduces bunching of the casing.

4. The method of claim 3 further comprising the step of:
spraying fluid into the restricting device to facilitate the
passing of the casing therethrough.

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